



# Adult Learning Center News

Winter 2013

Volume X, Issue 1



*Dover Adult Learning Center celebrates 40 years of helping adults in Strafford County achieve their educational goals.*

*Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to open doors to opportunity*

## Director's Message

*Deanna Strand*

In 2012, Dover Adult Learning Center celebrated 40 years of transforming lives through education. In January 2013, we step into the first months of our next 40 years.

This will be an exciting year. The current version of the GED test is being retired and a new test will be launched in 2014. In the last decade, 2,262 people have graduated high school with the GED at DALC. The new test will be upgraded to better prepare adults for 21st century careers and post secondary training. Offered on the computer, it will be focused on the skills employers and colleges seek. Any GED examinees who have started, but not completed the GED are urged

to complete the test by the end of the year. All scores expires on December 31, 2013, so if you don't finish, you will have to start over.

We glimpse the future in our classrooms, as new computer equipment arrives to aid instruction and expand our students' horizons. Having met out state performance goals in 2012, we were awarded an Incentive Grant for Technology. Outdated classroom computers have been upgraded, laptops added to our outreach locations and a new mini computer lab has been created in our Rochester location. See our Beginning Reading class making use of them in the photo on the right. They are using a website called [readtheory.org](http://readtheory.org). It has audio for the whole story so students can listen first and then read independently, working at their own pace. Our teachers are all eagerly awaiting the arrival of iPads for each classroom. The iPads will provide instant access to everything the internet has to offer in a portable, accessible format. Document cameras and LCD projectors are in use every day, making instruction a multi media experience.

Our Board of Directors is also about to launch into the future



with a new 3-year strategic plan. On Saturday, February 16, the many dedicated volunteers that make up the DALC Board gathered at the McConnell Center to chart our path through 2016. Exploring such topics as where our students come from, what programs and services they need most and how we can respond to serve them.

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**Transforming Lives through Education for More Than 40 years!**



**Our Board Members****Ann Schultz - President****Bob Renshaw - Vice President****Maggie Moore - Secretary****Judy Mettee - Treasurer****Shauna Brown****Joseph Cicirelli****Paula Ciotti****Nancy Dion****Maria Faskianos****Kathie Forbes****Elaine Lauterborn****Christine Mukankaka****Dennis Munson****Don Nary****Tyler Parkhurst****Jennie Phillips****Patricia Sorensen****In Their Own Words...**

What Was a Special Event in My Life - by Heidi Tetu

What was a special event in my life was when I got my grant to go to college. I heard about it from my teacher Pam. Then we applied on line on Thursday and by Monday I heard that I got the grant. I was so glad when I got the grant.

I am going to college to become a Personal Care Attendant. I have always wanted to work with the elderly and the disabled. So now I am going to do it.

It is a 40 hour course and I am half way though it right now. I scored a 75 on my mid term. That is what I needed to pass. I have learned a lot of things in the class. For example, how to care for the elderly so I do not hurt myself by trying to move them. Also how to bathe them and how to make sure they are feeling well.

I will be done on April 13th. It will be my last class. Then I will have my certificate. Then I will go to work. Then I will go to be an LNA. I will see how far I will go. I did graduate! I made it! It was a great course. I would recommend anyone to take the course.

*In Our Own Words*, published since 1989, is a collection of original writings. In poetry, personal reflection and artwork, they reveal their diversity, as well as their commonality as learners.

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**Benefactor (\$100+)**

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**Friend (\$50+)**

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**Received In Honor Of:**

Cam Dupere  
Margaret Moore



**Shari**

It was an opportunity to buy a store she had worked in and could manage. Her previous boss encouraged her, but Shari decided she first wanted to finish her high school diploma, and then go on to get a business degree.

"I took the easy way out the first time," explained Shari. When Shari was in high school, she said she liked to party, got through classes easily usually with an "A," no one pushed her, and mostly she was bored. So, she quit. Once out of school, she wanted to be a mother and became pregnant and was quite happy mothering three children. The oldest graduated with four degrees, and she has a great job in D.C.; the second oldest has his diploma, and he is now in the Marines; and, the youngest girl will graduate from Dover in May.

Unlike her own experience in high school, Shari is making sure they are all getting their diplomas. Now it is time for Shari to get her diploma. With the support of her husband and children, Shari is now working full time on achieving that goal. Her oldest has helped her with essays; her youngest with history. "If my kids hadn't backed me entirely and made me not feel like a failure (and they never have) I would have never gone back!"

When they first met, Bev O'Brien, DALC's high school diploma counselor asked for Shari's high school transcript and found that she only had 4 credits of the 20 credits needed for a diploma. Bev suggested Shari consider getting a GED rather than a diploma, but Shari has decided that since she had been out of school for so long, she wanted to get back into school. "I figured it would take about three years to finish," said Shari. It was a good choice for Shari, and for other students. Bev says Shari is a positive role model to younger students in classes.

Now over halfway done, Shari has 3 more credits this spring to complete along with 3-4 next year. She is determined. "I am learning a lot; the classes are great; and the teachers are wonderful," Shari said with a big grin. This time she is taking the hard way but is obviously learning a lot and enjoying it.



**Steve**

"I'm learning how to do stuff I've never done before," said Steve as he sat before his math books, studying to take his GED math test again to get more points. This is the beginning of Steve's third year at trying to pass his GED after his retirement from the Shipyard. The first year at DALC-Rochester he spent working on one of the five tests, math. "Math is tough," said Steve. He never had geometry or algebra, but he learned it. "I just did it because it's a challenge!"

His second year he worked on the other tests until he finished and passed all five tests. Unfortunately, he did not have the 2250 points needed to pass. Steve needs more points, so he decided to work on math to get the points, and he is presently working with Barbara Murray. "She is very helpful." When he can, he tries to figure out the math himself. "The whole page scares me, but after I do it, it doesn't scare me so much."

He said he dropped out of school three weeks before his senior year. He was able to get a job at the shipyard where he worked in the machine shop and even on the nuclear project.

He states he would not be hired today without a high school education or GED. Now he works part time at funeral homes in the area.

When he is not working, he comes to the Center to work on math with Barbara. He also has worked with Mary Caulfield and Paula Dubois. "I love the people here. They are very nice, very friendly." He says his two sons, a police sergeant and an electrician, are proud of him in his efforts to get his GED. And, he will pass and graduate. "I'll be there (in June)," says Steve matter-of-factly.



**Adrian**

Driven by his desire to speak English more fluently, Adrian will gladly try his new language out on anyone willing to talk with him.

Since arriving from Colombia in January of 2011, he has been attending classes here at Dover Adult Learning Center. When he arrived, he could read English, but he could not speak it so that Americans could understand him, nor could he understand what they were saying to him.

This made it very difficult for Adrian to find employment, primarily because it was so important to be able to speak and understand English during interviews.

He was finally successful in landing a job at Liberty Mutual as a power punch press operator. Fortunately, his direct supervisor speaks Spanish, which makes his job easier while he continues to master English.

When he lived in Colombia, Adrian drove a bus for work. Adrian's mother, who has lived in the United States for approximately 15 years, began the application process to bring Adrian here five years ago. Finally, his application was approved and he joined his mother here.

Almost immediately Adrian began attending Martha's Level I English class. Through his hard work, Adrian was able to advance to Jodi's Level II class this year. Adrian spoke glowingly of both teachers, "they are good teachers," he said, "I like everything" in the classes.

How does he like being better understood now? One of Adrian's favorite stories to share involves a time when his fellow Colombian girlfriend needed to use a restroom and he was able to obtain the information she needed. It is clear that Adrian enjoys his new home.

He enjoys watching "House" on television, exercising and trying out his new language as often as possible. He understands that speaking English is important to his effort to obtain U. S. citizenship. "He is one of the brightest, shining stars in the class," says Jodi.

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Dover

## ADULT LEARNING CENTER

**Strafford County**

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*Located in the McConnell Community Center, Dover Adult Learning Center of Strafford County helps adults in the Strafford County area enhance their life-coping skills and improve their lives through basic education, job training, high school completion and enrichment classes. We help our students become more effective lifelong learners, family members, workers and citizens.*



## Your Donations at Work...



## Red's Run for a Better Community - Sunday April 21, 2013

Sign up, make a pledge, sponsor a team...

This year, Red's Run will again benefit the same seven non-profit partners as the last three years: Dover Adult Learning Center, Community Action Partnership of Strafford County (formerly HUB Family Resource Center), Malley Farm for Boys, Community Partners, Monarch School of New England, Woodman Park School PTO and Seymour Osman Community Center.

Despite the rain, last's year's race was a huge success with record breaking numbers preregistered for the race. With your sponsorship and the involvement of a supportive community, we expect to continue growing this event. To find out how you can join the DALC team as a sponsor, volunteer or race participant call the office at 603-742-1030 or go to our website [Dalc-online.org](http://Dalc-online.org).

Thanks to our generous supporters we are able to offer the following incentives to our staff and students who take part:

- Register before April 5 to receive a Red's Race T-Shirt
- Awards to students with 3 highest total pledge amounts!
- Raise \$100 in pledges and get a DALC Hat!
- Pizza party prize to team that raises most for DALC!

